

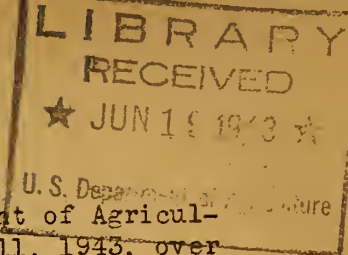
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1. Crop Report as of June 1
2. Overcrowding Chickens



Broadcast by Ruth Van Deman and Wallace Kadderly in the Department of Agriculture's portion of the National Farm and Home Hour, Friday, June 11, 1943, over stations associated with the Blue Network.

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ANNOUNCER: From Washington, we bring you the latest crop production report. Representing the Department of Agriculture are that friendly pair, Ruth Van Deman and Wallace Kadderly.

VAN DEMAN: Thank you Mr. Gibbons, for that nice, friendly introduction. I'd like to ask who could help being friendly on the Farm and Home Hour.

KADDERLY: When Everett Mitchell says "Farm and Home Hour family," as he does sometimes...well, that's exactly what it is -- a big family that takes in the people we hear in Chicago, the people here in Washington, and in Persimmon Holler, and the listeners from border to border and coast to coast.

VAN DEMAN: The listeners, some of whom, even now, find time to write nice friendly cards and letters.....

KADDERLY: And all of whom have their sleeves rolled up to do the work and to make the sacrifices that are necessary to win the war.

VAN DEMAN: Chester Davis, the War Food Administrator, had something to say yesterday afternoon about the work and neighborly cooperation of the farm people of the nation. Wallace, I hope you brought that statement with you.

KADDERLY: I did, Ruth. And I believe I'll read it to the Farm and Home family in full....it's quite short.

VAN DEMAN: By all means, read it.

KADDERLY: All right. Here's the statement made by Mr. Davis:

"The June Crop Report released today confirmed reports of damage to crop prospects during May. The damage indicated is serious, though not so extensive as many had feared in view of the widespread floods during the past month and continuing unfavorable weather in some areas of the West.

"The Crop Reporting Board's account of the remarkable planting record made by Illinois farmers in the week the fields started to dry out -- concurs with reports we have from many other sections that the farm people are working without a bit of let-up to get in all the acreage that can be cropped this year." (Here's the part you mentioned, Ruth). "Our reliance for keeping the acreage up to last year's high mark is the unremitting toil, and the neighborly cooperation of the farm people. The Nation can count on them to give all they've got in the few remaining days before the planting deadline for this year.

"This crop report does not carry acreage figures, and therefore does not give a basis for estimating the outcome of the year's harvests. Its preliminary indications, however, point toward per acre yields under 1942 but approaching those for

KADDERLY: (cont'd) - 1937-41. Including livestock output which will be bigger, the total food production of 1943 will probably about match or reach that of 1942, given average weather from here on, and adequate labor and supplies for bringing the harvests home. As the report notes, however, either further delays in planting or early frosts would be costly. Our needs for food are greater than last year. The meaning of this report to all of us is redoubled effort to produce food on the farm, in Victory Gardens, to conserve every scrap of food, to waste nothing. That is the way to make food fight most effectively for our side in this war.

"Farmers know that we need all the food that can be produced. The crop report indicates they have done a magnificent job in getting crops planted in many of the recently flooded areas. Farmers will obtain fair to good crops on thousands of acres which appeared to be completely out only a few days ago because of rains or drought."

VAN DEMAN: I'm glad you read Mr. Davis' statement in full, Wallace. A lot of us are paying close attention to news about crop conditions for the first time. And the news often can't be summed up in two sentences of a broadcast or the headline in the paper.

KADDERLY: That's a fact. Look, Ruth, I've marked up the crop report for my own edification. Suppose I run through the main parts.

VAN DEMAN: I wish you would.

KADDERLY: All right. The report starts with this statement: Crop prospects in the United States are lower than they were a month ago and a little less promising than at this season in any of the last three years. By June 1, planting had been seriously delayed by wet weather in important central and northeastern States. At the same time, lack of moisture was causing increasing concern in portions of the Great Plains.

VAN DEMAN: Don't mind if I look over your shoulder, do you?

KADDERLY: Course not.

VAN DEMAN: What's that note on the margin?

KADDERLY: Yields. Here's one of the statements Mr. Davis commented on: The report says if we have decent weather until harvest, we'll probably have about as big an acreage of crops as harvested last year, and crop yields should approach those of 1937 to 1941. The report goes on to say that some crops may yield well, but it's no longer possible to get the high yields on crops as a group that we got last year.

VAN DEMAN: It's too early for precise forecasts, isn't it.

KADDERLY: Yes, but you can get some good general signs. For example, recent weather has given promise of good grass for hay and pasture. The production of hay, plus the large carryover, may give us a little larger supply of hay than we had in any year before 1942, but only about the normal amount per unit of live-stock.



VAN DEMAN: Oh, there's something about wheat. (READING) Winter wheat has been hurt by drought....and by wet weather....Spring wheat is now generally favored by good moisture conditions. The total wheat crop...about the same as the average for 1932 to 1941.

KADDERLY: A large crop of barley and a fairly good crop of oats are now in prospect. As to corn....it's off to an abnormally late start. On June first probably 15 million acres were still to be planted. Corn will need good growing weather to mature late plantings before frost.

VAN DEMAN: I see you have a note there about range land.

KADDERLY: Condition of western ranges on June 1 -- about the same as the 20-year average for that date. Range prospects now appear fairly good except in one important area where ranchmen may have to reduce their herds unless they get good weather.

VAN DEMAN: And next comes commercial truck crops. I see you've briefed that, too.

KADDERLY: Yes, and in brief, the report is that in northern commercial truck crop areas, the acreage of early-season crops may fall below expectations. Growers couldn't plant at the right time. But they'll plant later-maturing truck crops on the same acreage where they can. In southern and western sections... and these furnish the bulk of supplies of vegetables for shipment during spring months...conditions during the second half of May were favorable, for the most part.

VAN DEMAN: So much for vegetables...let's see about fruit.

KADDERLY: Deciduous fruits - down in yield. Here are the details. Peaches -- probably the smallest crop since 1932. Pears -- probably 21 percent below last year's crop. Cherries -- above average but less than last year. Commercial apples -- somewhat smaller crop than last year. Apricots -- smallest crop since 1921.

VAN DEMAN: Say, don't you have any good news about fruit?

KADDERLY: (Just be patient, Ruth.) We can expect larger crops of prunes, figs, and grapes from California. And the present condition of citrus fruits -- the crop for market beginning next fall -- indicates about the same total tonnage of citrus fruits as we've had in the 1942-43 season.

VAN DEMAN: Well, I guess that just about completes the list of crops covered by the report. But if I'm not mistaken, you can turn a page and come to sections on milk and egg production.

KADDERLY: I can tell you about those without looking.

VAN DEMAN: All the same, I'd like to see for myself...Here we are. Milk output in May nearly 2 percent smaller than in May a year ago, but still 8 percent greater than average for 1937-41 and the second highest May production of milk

VAN DEMAN: (Cont'd) on record.

KADDERLY: The chickens did well.

VAN DEMAN: I'll say they did. A new record for the month of May. How's this for a figure? 6 billion 506 million eggs in May.

KADDERLY: That's an amazing figure. But it's easier for me to remember it as 13 percent higher than the figure for May of 1942....37 percent above the 10-year average. All through the year so far, egg production is running well ahead of last year. But the rate per bird was down a little from May last year.

VAN DEMAN: Maybe the lower rate of production per bird is due to crowding.

KADDERLY: Could be. That's one of the possible causes. And it does remind me of a recommendation by the Department of Agriculture and the National Poultry Advisory Council. This is the recommendation: the safe rule in housing laying hens is to allow 4 square feet of floor space per bird. That is, for average mature birds of such breeds as the Plymouth Rock, Rhode Island Red, and Wyandotte.

VAN DEMAN: Leghorns wouldn't need quite so much.

KADDERLY: No, they wouldn't. But they can get overcrowded too. And overcrowding almost certainly will mean fewer eggs than the hens would otherwise lay. Besides, overcrowding tends to increase sickness and death losses. The more overcrowding, the greater the loss.

VAN DEMAN: I suppose for a short time, though, a little overcrowding wouldn't hurt...for instance until some birds can be culled out.

KADDERLY: That's right. But as a regular practice, 4 square feet of floor space per bird is the safe rule.

VAN DEMAN: Wallace, I don't want to interrupt you, but "that man" is here.

KADDERLY: I see he is.

VAN DEMAN: And he's giving us a "rather significant" look.

KADDERLY: Well, that can mean only one thing. When "that man" gives us that "significant look", it means he's ready with the market report.